

him through this window in this door. I don't know how come I saw him, but I had a glimpse of him coming down there.

Dulles: Where was he coming from, do you know?

Baker: No, sir. All I seen of him was a glimpse of him go away from me. . . . He was walking away from me about 20 feet away from me in the lunchroom. . . . I hollered at him at that time and said, "Come here." He turned and walked right straight back to me.

Boggs: Were you suspicious of this man?

Baker: No, sir; I wasn't. (3H 250-251)

Boggs: When you saw him, was he out of breath, did he appear to have been running or what?

Baker: It didn't appear that to me. He appeared normal, you know.

Boggs: Was he calm and collected?

Baker: Yes, sir. He never did say a word or nothing. In fact, he didn't change his expression one bit. (3H 252)

Baker may have had more light to shed on his encounter with Oswald and the other events of the day. His testimony was taken off the record no less than five times.

The impassive Oswald was seen next by Mrs. Robert Reid, a clerical supervisor whose office was on the second floor of the Book Depository. She had been watching the motorcade from the street. She testified on March 25, 1964 that when she heard the shots:

Mrs. Reid: . . . the thought that went through my mind, my goodness I must get out of this line of shots, they may fire some more. . . . I ran into the building. I do not recall seeing anyone in the lobby. I ran up to our office . . . up the stairs . . . the front stairs. . . . I went into the office. . . . I kept walking and I looked up and Oswald was coming in the back door of the office. I met him by the time I passed my desk several feet. . . . I had no thoughts of anything of him having any connection with it at all because he was very calm. He had gotten a coke and was holding it in his hands and I guess the reason it impressed me seeing him in there I thought it was a little strange that one of the warehouse boys would be up in the office at that time, not that he had done anything wrong. (3H 274)

Belin: . . . Was there anything else you noticed about him? . . . Anything about the expression on his face?

Mrs. Reid: No; just calm. (3H 278)

Dulles: Was he moving fast?

Mrs. Reid: No; because he was moving at a very slow pace. I never did see him moving fast at any time. [Italics added] (3H 279)

We revert now to Victoria Adams, bearing in mind that if her story is accurate it decisively invalidates the Warren Commission's hypothesis about Oswald's movements between 12:30 and 12:33 p.m. Miss Adams testified that she had watched the motorcade from an open window on the fourth floor (the third set of double windows from the southeast corner), in company with other employees in the Scott, Foresman Co. publishing office where she worked. After the last shot, she and Sandra Styles immediately ran down the back stairs to the first floor, where she saw Lovelady and Shelley standing near the elevator.

Belin: How long do you think it was between the time the shots were fired and the time you left the window to start toward the stairway?

Miss Adams: Between 15 and 30 seconds, estimated, approximately.

Belin: How long do you think it took you to get from the window to the bottom of the stairs on the first floor?

Miss Adams: I would say no longer than a minute at the most. (6H 392)

It is true that the testimony given by Lovelady and Shelley on the same day as Victoria Adams, April 7, 1964, suggests that she is mistaken in her estimate of the time. Both men said that after the shooting they had gone together to the railroad tracks and observed the searching of cars for about a minute and a half before returning to the Book Depository by the rear door. Neither man remembered clearly whether or not he saw Victoria Adams on arrival. (6H 329-330, 339-340)

However, this testimony is not consistent with affidavits executed by the same two men on the day of the assassination for the Dallas police. Lovelady's affidavit (CE 2003, p. 36) states that he heard shots and "after it was over we went back into the building and I took some police officers up to search the building." Nothing about railroad tracks. [Italics added]

Shelley's affidavit (CE 2003, p. 59) stated:

"I heard what sounded like three shots. . . . I ran across the street to the corner of the park and ran into a girl crying and she said the President had been shot. . . . I went back to the building and went inside and called my wife and told her what happened. I was on the first floor and I stayed at the elevator. . . ." [Italics added]

Nothing about railroad tracks.

In their original stories, then, both Lovelady and Shelley accounted for their movements after the shooting in a manner that is completely consistent with Victoria Adams' testimony.

Appraisal of the Known Facts

The Warren Commission spared neither pains nor runners in straining to make Oswald's alleged actions fit within the strictly limited time available. Tests were conducted in which Baker ran his distance twice, a stand-in for Oswald ran twice, and Mrs. Reid (gallant woman!) did her sprint no less than three times. Among those runners and alleged runners, only Victoria Adams was exempted from re-enacting her dash from the fourth floor to the first so that her estimate of one minute could be tested by stop watch. Why was she left aside when the tests were run? Why was her companion, Sandra Styles—who was in a position to confirm or contradict her testimony—not called before the Commission and questioned?

Witnesses Lovelady and Shelley salvaged the Commission's hypothesis from the brink of disaster by giving testimony that seemed to discredit Victoria Adams' story. But the Commission had in its hands their affidavits of November 22 which supported her testimony. The affidavits were sworn while events were

still fresh. Is it conceivable that both men should have forgotten to mention the railroad yards at that time, and that both should have remembered in April—so providentially?

If we are to believe what is credible instead of what is essential to the patchwork official theory, we must believe Victoria Adams' testimony and the affidavits of Luby and Shelley. The testimony of the latter two suggests the possibility of collusion and misrepresentation.

Let us re-examine the episode described in the Report. Oswald has reached the back stairs and is hailed by a policeman with a gun in hand. He turns back to the officer, looking "calm and collected," and merely "a bit startled" by the weapon pointed at him. But now his assassin has the great good luck to have his supervisor vouch for him and to see the two men resume their rush upstairs. He is safe and free to escape from the building.

At that moment Oswald had merely to return to the back stairs, walk down one flight to the first floor, and walk out the back door. The longer he delayed, the greater the danger that the building would be sealed off by the police and he would not be permitted to leave. He was alone and had no audience to impress with a pretense of relaxed innocence. The imperative was to slip downstairs and get as far away as possible.

Instead of using his advantage, Oswald apparently decided to use the most distant and dangerous exit—the main door on Elm Street where police and spectators were plentiful. But he was in no hurry to get there. He first obtained a Coca-Cola from the dispensing machine, then ambled across the second floor "at a very slow pace." No one saw him again until he boarded a bus that was headed back to the scene of the crime. For a murderer to return to the scene of the crime is, of course, in the best classical tradition, but isn't a little time supposed to elapse before such a compulsion prevails?

The Commission has speculated about Oswald's movements between the second floor, where he was seen by Mrs. Reid, and the bus, where he was seen by other witnesses. But no attempt was made to determine where Oswald left the Coca-Cola bottle, or whether it was still full when abandoned.¹ No inquiry was made among the police officers guarding the front door of the Book Depository.

1. The timing of Oswald's purchase of a coke from the dispensing machine on the second floor is very important in evaluating the assertion that he had sufficient time to descend from the sixth floor and encounter Truly and Officer Baker, and in assessing Oswald's "escape." The original story out of Dallas was that Oswald had a bottle of coke in his hand when he was stopped by Baker. Léo Sauvage wrote in *Commentary* (ibid., p. 56) that the "police officer and the manager of the building had described Oswald as holding a Coca-Cola bottle in his hand," and that that was one of the details announced by Chief of Police Jesse Curry on Saturday, November 23. The Warren Report, however, insists that Oswald had nothing in his hands when Baker and Truly saw him. (WR 151) That is what both Baker and Truly said when they testified before the Commission, whatever they may have said on earlier occasions.

Baker, for some reason, was asked to provide a further statement attesting to his encounter with Oswald, only a few days before the Warren Report was released. In that brief handwritten statement of September 23, 1964, Baker states that he entered the Book Depository to determine if the shots might have come from that building and that on the second floor he "saw a man standing in the lunchroom drinking a coke." However, a line is drawn through the phrase "drinking a coke," so as to delete it, the deletion being initialed by Baker. (CD 6076) The very fact that Baker said spontaneously that Oswald was drinking a coke, and that the later deletion has self-evident significance of great persuasiveness.

tory after the shooting to determine whether Oswald had been allowed to walk out of the building (although one of the policemen testified that he was in position within two to three minutes and permitted no one to leave without authorization). (7H 543) No examination was made of all films and photographs taken at the scene to see whether Oswald's departure was recorded by a camera. No attempt was made to check Oswald's story, after his arrest, that a Secret Service agent had stopped him in front of the Book Depository to ask where the nearest telephone was located.²

It is curious, in fact, that Captain Fritz and the other interrogators never even asked Oswald which exit he had used or whether a policeman had been stationed at the door, and if so, whether he had tried to prevent him from leaving or had checked his credentials. The authorities who questioned Oswald should have been eager to learn how he had managed to leave a building which had been sealed by the police, perhaps within three minutes after the shooting, and whether his safe departure had been facilitated by an accomplice or merely by carelessness. The reports on the interrogation of Oswald (WR Appendix XI) reflect no attempt to obtain such information from him. Indeed, the reports do not indicate that Oswald was ever asked whether he had accomplices and who they were.

Despite the remarkable defects of the investigation at all stages, we still have clear knowledge of Oswald's whereabouts immediately after the shooting and after his encounter with Baker and Truly. The three witnesses who saw him in the Book Depository testified to his normal demeanor and unhurried pace. Clearly, Oswald's known actions and reactions seem wholly consistent with innocence, but would seem preposterous if he were guilty.

The Bus Ride

Before the Warren Report

District Attorney Henry Wade held a press conference on Sunday night after Oswald was murdered, of which it has been said that he was not guilty of a single accuracy. Wade asserted that Oswald had boarded a bus³ after leaving the Book

Pierce Allman, WFAA-TV (Dallas) newsmen, was within a few feet of the President just as he was shot, according to a B.B.C. radio broadcast. Allman telephoned the news to his station from a Book Depository telephone. He was not questioned by the Warren Commission but Allman told the Secret Service (CD 354 National Archives) that he was directed to a phone in the Book Depository and that Oswald mistook him for a Secret Service agent. Allman says that the incident occurred just as Oswald described it, and that it must have been Oswald who directed him to the telephone. The incident is noteworthy not only because it corroborates Oswald's story, which the Commission did not trouble to investigate, but because it suggests that Oswald lingered at the building—an action hardly compatible with the Commission's reconstruction of his movements or with "escape."

At a press conference Friday night in police headquarters the news that Oswald had seen a bus after leaving the Book Depository provoked an incredulous reporter to ask if it was the first time that the Dallas Public Transport system was used as a "getaway car." (2170)

Adams' testimony (6H391) describing her movements after she left the TSB D for a few minutes. Here is what happened on her way back to TSB D:

"There was a motorcycle that was parked on the corner of Houston and Elm... I paused to listen to the report on the police radio, and they said that shots had been fired which apparently came either from the second floor or the fourth floor window..."
(questioned whether she did not hear "second from the top"):

"it said second floor"

Compare police radio log (Swayer Exh. A: p. H391); especially note the time:

12:35 ...

↑
TIME

"A witness says he saw gun pull the weapon from the window of the second floor on the south east corner of the Depository building."

(reference to fourth floor is on p. 392, a few lines below this unique reference to the second floor.)

There can be no doubt that Adams' time reckoning is correct (Sandra Styles could corroborate Adams, but it's not necessary now). Forelady and Shelley lied about going to the R.R. yards for 10 minutes — and they lied for the sole purpose of discrediting Adams' time reckoning.